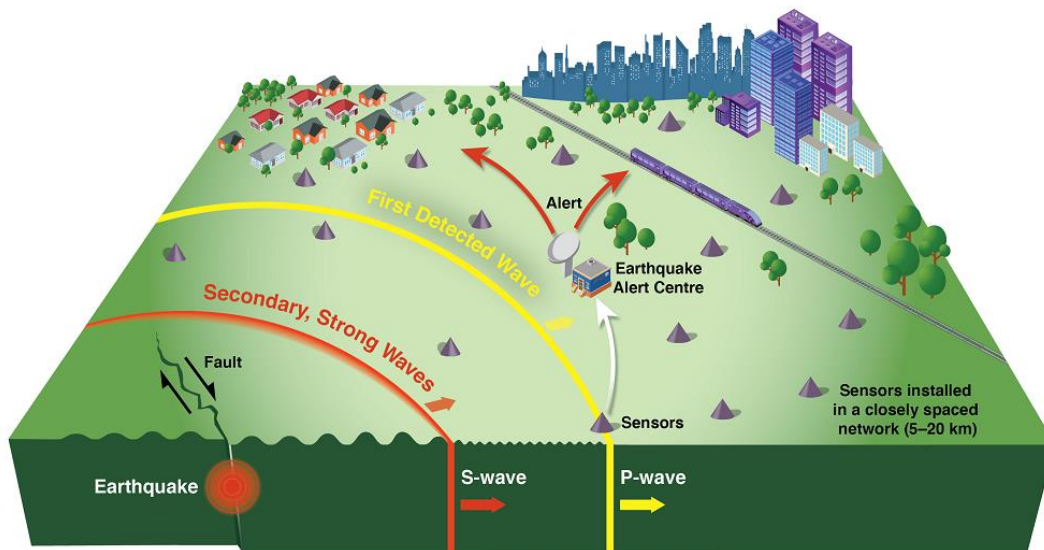


Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

National Earthquake Early Warning System

Natural Resources Canada is installing an Earthquake Early Warning System across Canada. The BC sensors are scheduled to be active this spring. Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) systems detect the initial energy released from an earthquake, seen in the picture below as the yellow line labelled “p wave.”



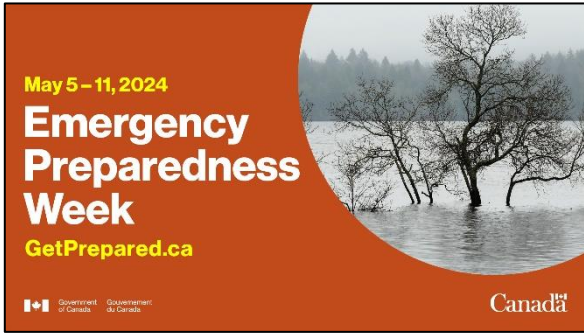
The first wave of energy is not the wave that typically causes damage. The stronger, damaging waves occur seconds, tens of seconds or even minutes later. The EEW sensors transmit information to data centres that quickly calculate the level of shaking expected in a region. The computers can then send out alerts in many forms. For the public, the alert will be through your cell phone, over the radio or on television. The aim is for the alert to be received far enough in advance of the start of damaging shaking so that people can take protective actions. As the system expands, the alerts can also be used to trigger other preventative measures including halting surgeries, preventing the flow of traffic into tunnels and onto bridges, as well as automatically opening firehall and ambulance bay doors.

It is important to note that the Earthquake Early Warning system alerts will only reduce the impact of earthquakes if people take notice of the messaging and immediately take protective actions. If you receive an EEW alert, don't question the validity of the alert, instead drop, cover, and hold on.

Remember, it may only be a few seconds until the dangerous shaking begins. If it turns out the shaking isn't as strong as predicted, congratulations, you just completed a valuable earthquake drill, and it only took a few minutes of your day!

WATCH THE VIDEO!

[Earthquake Early Warning - In case you miss the animal warning signs](#)



Emergency Preparedness Week

Emergency Preparedness Week is an annual event which takes place during the first full week of May; this year, May 6 to May 10. EMO will be out and about in the community offering emergency preparedness advice, handing out home emergency planning resources and of course there will be EMO giveaways! Follow our social media channels for more details.



Reception Centre Training at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

On April 3, the Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Emergency Communications Team (ECT) met at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre to practice sending messages between a group lodging setup and an Emergency Operations Centre.

The scenario allowed our ESS responders to simulate sending resource requests and situational updates in the event of cell phone and landline coverage being unavailable.

The communications team quickly established voice communications with our emergency communications trailer, which was stationed at Qualicum Beach Fire Hall and with the Parksville ESS office to simulate being able to connect back to emergency program staff in either municipality. The communications team were happy to be able to test out the new VHF/UHF antenna that ECT volunteer AI recently installed. It worked fabulously and performed significantly better than the previous antenna. Thanks AI!

The Qualicum Beach Civic Centre is one of our designated regional reception centres and is also a designated emergency group lodging location. EMO supplies include camp cots, bedding packages and food rations to quickly establish a space where over 100 people could sleep in the aftermath of an emergency and if other lodging options were unavailable. Setting up and running group lodgings

Voyent Alert!



It isn't too late to sign up for Voyent Alert!

Registration is free. Go to [Voyent Alert! \(vovent-alert.com\)](https://vovent-alert.com) to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca (250) 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com if you have any questions about the system or registration process.

Volunteer with EMO

WE NEED YOU! 2024 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our EMO volunteers. We have many plans for training, exercises and collaboration with our partner organizations. If you are interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or the Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), contact emergencyprogram@parksville.ca



Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we provide all of the training you will need.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open to the public with full services. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm (except statutory holidays). Although the office is open, residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the other payment options including payment through your financial institution; mail a cheque; or drop off a cheque at Town Hall drop box (location below). If you do wish to visit Town Hall to conduct business, masks are recommended while in the building.

Email qbtown@qualicumbeach.com
Phone 250 752-6921
Post PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7

qualicumbeach.com qbfirerescue.com

City of Parksville

City offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries, planning and finance departments	250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; administration@parksville.ca
Engineering	250 951-2484; engineering@parksville.ca
Operations	250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

parksville.ca letstalkparksville.ca

For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville
kpocock@parksville.ca

Shinjini Mehta, Climate Action and Emergency Program Coordinator, Town of Qualicum Beach
smehta@qualicumbeach.com

